

WASHINGTON-Congress passed the Deposit Insurance Reform Bill (H.R.522) by a bi-partisan margin of 411-11 today, an increase of 11 votes over last year's vote when the bill passed through the House. Congressman Spencer Bachus, Chairman of the Financial Institutions Subcommittee, drafted and was lead sponsor on the bill. According to Congressman Bachus, "By passing this bill, we are promoting the stability and soundness of the banking system, and providing assurance to working families, retirees, and others who place their hard-earned savings in U.S. banks, thrifts, and credit unions that their FDIC-insured deposits are safe and secure."

Donald Powell Chairman of the FDIC, said in a letter dated March 31st, "If H.R. 522 or similar legislation is enacted into law, the FDIC believes it will represent an important improvement over the current deposit insurance system", and " a major step toward a safer and sounder deposit insurance system."

"This bill is high on Senator Selby's radar screen in the Senate Finance Committee, and is there is a similar provision in the President's budget proposal", Congressman Bachus said. "We are moving forward in the right direction". The legislation unanimously passed through the Financial Services Committee, and has 57 co-sponsors.